

GRANDMA SUMMER

by Harley Jessup



Activities:

① Read *Granddaddy's Place* by Helen V. Griffith. Divide the class into small groups and let them compare the two stories. Possible comparisons are: setting, child characters, grandparents, events, and child characters' feelings.

② Students imagine they are in a cabin at the beach without electricity, camping in the woods, or perhaps they are at home when the power goes out. Brainstorm the kinds of things students could do during the day or night that wouldn't require electricity. What kinds of things couldn't they do that they would normally do? Then students can write a story about themselves in that situation or make up a story about others and how they spend their day.

③ If you can find the book, *The Backwards Watch*, read it to the students. In the story the grandfather is scolding his grand daughter for getting dirty and messy. He claims that he kept himself neat and clean when he was her age. As she plays with his watch, they go back in time, are the same age, and play in a junk yard together where they create wonderful structures, have a glorious time, and stay anything but clean. She also finds out how he got the large scar she has wondered about.

Students can imagine what it might be like to be able to play with one of their own grandparents when he or she was their age. They can make up a story about it and have their grandparents doing things that the grandparents might never have done. If the grandparents are still living, it would be fun to share these imaginative stories with them.

④ Read other books about grandparents such as: *Song and Dance Man*; *Grandma According to Me*; and *Kevin's Grandma*. Students can choose two characters to compare or they can compare one of the characters with one of their own grandparents. Students could also use a VENN diagram to compare things they do with one of their grandparents to the things done in *Kevin's Grandma*.

⑤ Students can draw and write about a favorite place to go with their grandparents or an older relative even if this person is no longer living. If they don't have a favorite place, they can imagine one.

⑥ Show students the map on the end papers of *Grandma Summer*. Notice how the map is just sketched with objects drawn simply (stick figures) rather than drawn accurately and to scale. The important information is given, though, and places are labeled. Students should think about a place they like to visit, a place around their house, or even their bedroom. They can make a sketch to show the important parts, give distances, and label places or main items.

Related Books:

Georgia Music by Helen V. Griffith
Granddaddy's Place by Helen V. Griffith
Granddaddy's Stars by Helen V. Griffith
Grandma According to Me by Karen Magnuson Beil
Kevin's Grandma by Barbara Williams
Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman